

Message Text

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ACTION DEAE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4119

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0028

PARIS PASS DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

DEPT PASS DEA HQS.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, SP

SUBJ: PERMANENT ORGANIZATION ON DRUG PREVENTION

REF: STATE 276820

1. ACCORDING TO INFO FROM REUTERS REPORTED IN REFTEL, FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTER PONIATOWSKI RECENTLY DESCRIBED EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO SET UP A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION TO POOL ALL INFO ON DRUG PREVENTION. IT WOULD INCLUDE THE NINE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES PLUS SWEDEN WHOSE MINISTERS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND INTERIOR WOULD PROVIDE THE COOPERATION MECHANISH. THE
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ORGANIZATION WAS SCHEDULED TO START UP IN DECEMBER 1975.

2. ACCORDING TO PONIATOWSKI'S COMMENTS, 70 PERCENT OF DRUG ARRESTS IN FRANCE STEM FROM ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF CANNABIS, MOST OF WHICH ORIGINATES IN MOROCCO. JUDGING FROM STATISTICS PROVIDED TO THE DEA BY SPANISH DRUG ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, MOST OF THIS CANNABIS TRANSITS SPAIN ENROUTE TO COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES IN NORTHERN EUROPE. BECAUSE OF THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS STUDY BY WASHINGTON AND PARIS OF THE FEASIBILITY OF SPAIN'S BEING INVITED TO JOIN THE NEWLY FORMED GROUP AS A MEANS BOTH TO AUGMENT THE GROUP'S CAPABILITY TO INTERCEPT ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN CANNABIS AND TO INFLUENCE THE SPANISH GOVT ITSELF TO DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO DRUG INTERDICTION.

3. FROM THE POLITICAL STANDPOINT, FRANCO'S DISAPPEARANCE AND THE CHANGE OF GOVT WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE WAKE OF JUAN CARLOS' ACCESSION, SHOULD REMOVE MUCH OF THE HESITANCY IN SOME EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE NEWLY FORMED ORGANIZATION. AT ALL EVENTS, INASMUCH AS THE ORGANIZATION IS TECHNICAL IN CHARACTER AND NON-POLITICAL, POLITICAL FACTORS SHOULD NOT PLAY A ROLE AS THEY WOULD IN OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF U.S. POLICY, SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZATION WOULD HELP FURTHER OUR OVERALL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SPAIN'S CAPABILITY TO COPE WITH ILLICIT NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING AND, IN AN ANCILLARY FASHION, DRAW SPAIN CLOSER TO ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN ONE OTHER TECHNICAL FIELD. WE BELIEVE SPAIN WOULD BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW ORGANIZATION, BUT WE THINK THE INITIATIVE MIGHT HAVE TO COME FROM EUROPE IN VIEW OF EUROPE'S REJECTION OF SPAIN IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND PARIS' REACTION.
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